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ER-10-6019
CCC
M-9
4 August 1958

MINUTES OF THE CRITICAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING - 1 August 1958

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1. The Committee reviewed experience with CRITIC messages to date. The Chairman reported that the average time of CRITIC messages since the inauguration of the system was [] as compared with [] for a roughly comparable group of messages transmitted during late 1957. It was apparent that there is some difference of opinion concerning the use of the CRITIC indicator in connection with some of the items that have been submitted in the CRITIC system.

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2. The Committee agreed on the following:

a. Follow-up messages must be judged on their own substantive merits and should not be labeled CRITIC just because a preceeding message on the same subject was submitted as a CRITIC message.

b. The use of CRITIC in connection with certain missile activities will be discussed at the next meeting.

c. CRITIC should be used only on messages addressed to Washington and should not be used laterally in the field or from Washington to the field.

d. NSA will submit a plan for the routing and dissemination of CRITIC messages in Washington, which will be discussed at the next meeting.

e. It would be advisable to instruct the field to send CRITIC messages through the communication channels of the agency having the fastest communication means and the fastest cryptographic means wherever practicable.

f. NSA will keep a master log of CRITIC messages and will furnish copies to the members of the Committee.

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g. The members of the Committee will review all messages received since the inauguration of the CRITIC system, and will be prepared to discuss items that they feel should have been submitted in the CRITIC system.

h. The number of information addressees on CRITIC messages should be held down to avoid delaying transmission of the CRITIC message itself. Each agency will monitor this problem in its own messages.

i. As soon as sufficient experience with the CRITIC system has been accumulated it would be desirable to publish a CRITIC manual for use by the intelligence community.

j. The need for including a date/time group in the text of the message will be discussed at the next meeting.

3. [] reported to the Committee on the status of the Defense-CIA plan for the CRITIC communication system.

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4. It was agreed that the next meeting will be held at 1330 hours, Thursday, 7 August 1958, Room 154 Administration Building.

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W. A. TIDWELL
Chairman, CCC

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